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**REPORT (PART II)**  
ON  
**NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL**  
FOR THE  
Week ending Saturday, 18th January 1902

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

33. The following is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

INDIAN NATION,  
3th Jan. 1902.

Native Clubs and the Calcutta  
maidan.

"Native clubs, we hear, are not permitted to have their games on the *maidan* on Sundays without the special permission of the Commissioner of Police. European clubs are said to be under no such restriction. If this is a fact, it is impossible to account for it. There should be one law for all, even in the matter of games. If a distinction is to be made, it should be in favour of natives. Europeans as Christians may voluntarily desist from frivolities on the Sabbath. If they do not, they may be coerced to rigidly observe a Christian practice. It cannot be fair to compel non-Christians to observe a Christian rule. There is no Church, no Christian population anywhere near the play grounds, which may feel scandalised by sports on a Sunday. Why then the restriction on Hindus, to whom Sunday is the best day for exercise? It is said that the regular forms of license contain no clause of restriction which is embodied on a slip that is attached. We cannot believe that the Commissioner of Police creates such an arbitrary and unreasonable distinction. Some subordinate office hand is probably responsible, and we invite the attention of that officer to the fact."

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

34. The following appears in the *Bengalee*:—

The Sobha Bazar Murder Case.

"We publish elsewhere Mr. Mehta's able and eloquent address on behalf of the accused Jogendro Kumar Bose, who was charged with having committed murder. The Special Jury after a charge from the learned Judge for 2½ hours retired for about an hour and brought in a unanimous verdict of acquittal. The verdict shows that again an innocent man was accused of murder and had to suffer 5 months' imprisonment before he was released. May we ask who is responsible for this state of things? Will the Government enquire into the circumstances under which the accused was sent up for trial and detained in custody for nearly five months?"

BENGALIAN  
12th Jan. 1902.

35. The *Bengalee* complains that in the Court of the Second Munsif

The Civil Court amlahs in  
Howrah.

of Howrah, parties are more or less at the mercy of the *amlahs* in having their processes issued out of Court and in knowing what orders are passed by the Court. Verified petitions are accepted in the Court of the first Munsif to prove service of summons and notices. But affidavits are required in the Court of the Second Munsiff for the same purpose. There are many such inconsistent practices prevailing in the Civil Courts in Howrah. The writer hopes the District Judge will kindly make an enquiry into the grievances complained of when he inspects the Howrah Civil Courts and in the case of the *amlahs* of the First Munsif's Court, who are greatly overworked, sanction some additional hands to cope with the increasing work. He also appeals for a uniform practice for all the Civil Courts in Howrah with a view to afford convenience to the suitors in getting their business done without much interference on the part of the *amlahs*.

BENGALIAN  
16th Jan. 1902.

36. The same writer ventilates the grievances of the suitors, legal pro-

The Howrah Civil Court build-  
ings.

fession and others transacting business in the Civil Court house at Howrah, owing to the want of accommodation for Pleaders' *muharrirs*, and the crowding of the narrow veranda and single staircase used by everybody. The proximity of the railway latrine on the east of the Court building and the foul tank on the north also constitute a serious annoyance to all parties.

BENGALIAN  
16th Jan. 1902.

37. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hopes that the Government will

Mr. K. M. Chatterji, Judge of  
the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

see its way to extend the term of service of Mr. K. M. Chatterji. He is the only Hindu Judge in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, the others being Mussalmans and Europeans. If this is not possible, it is essential that either a Hindu Barrister or a Hindu Sub-Judge should occupy his place. The *Patrika*

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Jan. 1902.



remarks that it will be a huge scandal if another European is appointed to succeed Mr. Chatterji, and it cannot believe that Sir John Woodburn will permit it. More than three-fourths of the litigants in the Calcutta Small Cause Court are Hindus, and the nature of the grave wrong can easily be imagined if there is no Hindu Judge to decide their cases.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
13th Jan. 1902.

38. The *Hindoo Patriot* points out the inconvenience felt by rate-payers by the present location of the newly created District Offices, and suggests their removal to more convenient places or, failing this, the rearrangement of wards.

It next hopes that steps will be taken to expedite the transfer of the Assessment and License Department to the District Offices, and that a supervising officer, the Vice-Chairman for choice, might be deputed to inspect the work of the District Offices.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canal and Irrigation.*

BENGALIEE,  
15th Jan. 1902.

39. The following paragraph appears in the *Bengalee*:—

We hear that the Ticket-Collector who was assaulted by the European Sub-divisional Officer, referred to by our Monghyr correspondent, is not going to complain. The matter is likely to be hushed up. Will not the Government enquire into the case and ascertain whether or not one of its officers has so egregiously misbehaved himself?

(h)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
11th Jan. 1902.

40. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appeals to Mr. Hallifax, the Magistrate of Jessore, to put an end to the prosecution under section 154, Indian Penal Code, of the Narail Babus, in whose zamindari a short time ago an assault on Mr. Gupta, the Subdivisional Officer of Narail, was committed. The Babus will gladly give an undertaking that such an occurrence does not happen again.

BENGALIEE,  
12th Jan. 1902.

41. Reverting to the "illiberal, narrow and utterly unwise policy of the Government in maintaining a system of exclusion as regards the children of the soil from the higher appointments in the various departments," the *Bengalee* says that those who are least given to agitation are beginning to feel that the situation must be changed. One of these, whose speech is quoted, is Dr. Lal Madhab Mukerji, Rai Bahadur, a retired pensioner of the Government, who has more strongly denounced the policy of the Government in the matter of the simultaneous examination for the Indian Medical Service than even the most thorough-going agitator. "To be born and educated in India," says the Rai Bahadur, "is to be branded with mental and moral inferiority."

The *Bengalee* is afraid it is not possible to traverse the indictment. "The worthiest amongst us," it says, "is but a hewer of wood and a drawer of water. Guild the pill as you may, cover it with as many incrustations of courtly phraseology as you please, the truth cannot be concealed that despite the Queen's Proclamation, our race and our complexion, our education and the place of our birth constitute our real disqualification; and the policy of the Government in recent years has accentuated this unpleasant impression."

Rather than have simultaneous examinations for the Indian Medical Service, which has grown unpopular in England, the Government would give the appointments to plague doctors without any competitive examination, because, it is complained, if the rulers conceded it, there would be far too many Indians in the Indian Medical Service.

So strong is the sense of indignation created by the "unworthy treatment of the graduates of the Indian Medical Colleges that Rai Lal Madab Mukerji, "who is far from being an extremist," actually suggests to the Assistant Surgeons to boycott the Indian Medical Service if they want to see an improvement in their position, and he says that this policy of boycotting should be followed by Assistant Surgeons in the coming year, his speech having been delivered on the 23th December last.



42. In deciding the question of transferring the Govindpur subdivision

The transfer of Govindpur to Burdwan.

from Manbhum to Burdwan, the *Indian Nation* is of opinion that what is wanted is a consideration of arguments, not an estimate of personal influences—a comparison of the grounds on which the numerous reasonable, emphatic, and representative protests against the transfer have been made, and of the representation made by the Mining Association in favour of the transfer.

INDIAN NATION,  
18th Jan. 1902.

43. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor to reconsider the question of transferring the Govindpur subdivision from Manbhum to Burdwan, as it will

*Ibid.*

cause great administrative dislocation. It was understood that the welfare of a certain section of the European mercantile community was consulted since the Indian Mining Association moved strongly in the matter, but it is now authoritatively stated that the transfer has been undertaken by Government in the interests of the Sonthals.

BENGALIEE,  
17th Jan. 1902.

The journal publishes extracts from a letter addressed to the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division by the Revd. Mr. Campbell, the accredited spokesman of the Sonthals, in which he gives a few reasons for justifying his statement that the transfer would be the ruin not only of the Sonthals but of all the aboriginal and semi-aboriginal tribes and castes of the subdivision.

The distance from the head-quarters of Gobindpur to Burdwan is nearly double the distance to Purulia, and the language of the Sonthals is quite different from that of a purely Bengali-speaking district like Burdwan, so that the disadvantages for litigants will be considerable.

44. Commenting on the Secretary of State's despatch on the report of

The Secretary of State and the Famine Commission.

the last Famine Commission, the *Bengalee* disagrees with the remark that the recommendation of the Commissioners will materially contribute to diminish the lamentable effects of a failure of monsoon rain. As a matter of fact these recommendations are calculated to diminish famine relief expenditure on future occasions, and not mortality, which should be the prime object of relief measures.

BENGALIEE,  
14th Jan. 1902.

The people of India are falsely accused of having caused the increased expenditure in the last famine by "a greater readiness on their part to accept relief owing to the demoralising influence of the preceding famines." Lord Northbrook in his speech at the famine meeting held in Calcutta in February 1874 testified from experience to the people being singularly averse to relying upon assistance from Government, so that instead of their having been guilty of extravagance, the opposite charge of niggardliness may more appropriately be brought against the Government.

The excessive land revenue demanded, and not the failure of the monsoon rains, is greatly responsible for the ruin of the agricultural classes.

45. Writing again on the evils of making the Judiciary subordinate

The separation of the Judicial and the Executive.

to the Executive, the *Bengalee* states that in days gone by this subordination did not act so detrimentally as now, for every civilian had to pass through a judicial training on the Bench before receiving high executive appointments. A reversion to the old state is not asked for, but a modification of the present system is needed, which would ensure the people against executive high-handedness and police oppression. This may be accomplished with little or no cost to Government by emancipating District and Sessions Judges from all executive control, and making Joint-Magistrates and certain Deputy Magistrates entrusted exclusively with judicial work, directly subordinate to District and Sessions Judges. The appointments of Joint-Magistrate should be given only to those Assistant Magistrates who would elect to serve in the judicial line, and as the Sadar Deputy Magistrates' principal duties are executive, they should be relieved of their subsidiary judicial work, which could be performed by special-officers confined exclusively to that work. This redistribution of business, says the *Bengalee*, would effect an enormous improvement in the administration of justice and be welcomed by Deputy Magistrates.

BENGALIEE,  
14th Jan. 1902.

46. With reference to the constitution of the Mining Board provided

The Mining Board.

by the new Mining Act, and to which two European Members of the Equitable Coal Company have been

BEHAR HERALD,  
15th Jan. 1902.



nominated by the Indian Mining Association, the *Indian Mirror* supports the Memorials of the Bengal Landholders' Association and other bodies against the one-sided arrangement, and has no doubt that Kumar Dakhineswar Malia will, if appointed to the Board, prove an acquisition. In fact it says that it will be a scandal if he is not nominated.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
16th Jan. 1902.

47. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in noticing the judgment in the case of Mr. Ross, delivered yesterday, remarks that for the theft of about Rs. 7 of Government

money a native was sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment. Referring to the "crying scandal regarding the office and pay of the Commissioner of the Sunderbunds," which the *Englishman* writes about, the *Patrika* says:—

"The crying scandal is not the pay attached to the post, but the appointment of a white man as an irresponsible Commissioner of the Sunderbunds. An Indian, with such a salary, would never have been tempted to commit defalcations. Indeed, the lesson which the Government should learn from the case is that it should make over the Sunderbunds Commissionership to a competent native of India, and that it should never entrust an Englishman with a responsible appointment carrying a small salary."

INDIAN MIRROR  
17th Jan. 1902.

48. Although the *Indian Mirror* sympathises with Mr. Ross, it is of opinion that the circumstances of his case call for a most sifting enquiry. Recent reports speak

unfavourably of Mr. Ross' conduct, but the enquiry should be instituted not so much to further incriminate him as to disclose the system of audit which made embezzlements possible for a space of nine years. It is due to the credit of his own administration that Sir John Woodburn should institute such an enquiry in his own name, and if this is not done, continues the journal, an appeal will be made to the Viceroy to appoint a commission, as public moneys are being plundered and wasted in diverse ways.

BENGALÉE,  
17th Jan. 1902.

49. On reading Mr. Allen's address and Mr. Justice Stevens' judgment on the Ross case, the *Bengalée* concludes that Mr. Ross has fallen a victim to the parsimony of the

Provincial Government. This charge can doubtless be successfully met, but it is inexplicable why the Officer of the Account Department responsible for the examination of the cash balance in hand failed in his duty. He is in a great measure responsible for the serious loss to Government by reason of Mr. Ross's malpractices, and steps should be taken to prevent such gross dereliction of duty in future.

It is hoped the Government will not place a European Officer in charge of the office with the small pay attached to it, and that a heavy security will be taken from the incumbent if he is at all to remain in possession of funds.

BENGALÉE,  
17th Jan. 1902.

50. Referring to the case of Babu Kaliprasanna Sen, late overseer of Rajmehal, Sonthal Parganas, the *Bengalée* trusts Sir John Woodburn will grant the justice which has been denied him by the local officials, and reinstate

An appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor.

him in his post.

The Deputy Commissioner appointed Babu Kaliprasanna by a formal letter forwarded to him by the District Engineer of Monghyr, and dismissed him after 6 weeks' service owing to his not procuring a certificate of satisfactory work from his former employers and being unfit for employment.

The latter reason does not agree with the facts, as at Rajmehal he satisfactorily discharged his duties, and Mr. Marriott, Chairman of the Monghyr District Board, made special mention of the Babu's services in his Administration Report for 1899.

The Bhagalpur Commissioner has rejected the appeal made to him on the plea that Babu Kaliprasanna never received a letter of appointment.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

51. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appeals to Maharaj Manindra Chandra, from his position in the Legislative Council, to demand the repeal of the "odious, oppressive and

The Chaukidari tax.

unjust chaukidari tax, which is a direct tax paid by the poorest of the poor in every village and hamlet in India, and for which they do not derive the slightest benefit."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th Jan. 1902.



IV.—NATIVE STATES.

52. With reference to the case of the Raja of Suket, related in para. 30, of Report No. 2 of 1902, the *Bengalees* would not be surprised if some day a serious charge is formulated against the Raja upon the information of some Titus Oates of the State who encouraged by the Commissioner to bring forward complaints against the Raja, might bring forward charges of a serious character necessitating the intervention of the Paramount Power. It hopes the Raja will realise the truth of the maxim that discretion is the better part of valour, and make ample amends to the Commissioner. In the meantime, the *Bengalees* would like to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to this unhappy incident.

BENGALURU,  
11th Dec. 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 18th January 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.



THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF LONDON  
FROM THE FOUNDATION  
TO THE PRESENT  
BY JOHN STOW